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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF :

KAZUHIDE OUCHI, ET AL. : EXAMINER: TORRES, J. D.

SERIAL NO: 10/562,799 :

FILED: APRIL 25, 2006 : GROUP ART UNIT: 2112

FOR: OPTICAL RECEPTION DEVICE AND OPTICAL RECEPTION METHOD

PROVISIONAL ELECTION

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313

SIR:

In response to the election requirement dated June 22, 2007, Applicants provisionally elect with traverse Group IV, Claims 7-8 and 10, drawn to a control means for executing hard decision-identification of the electronic signals in any one of the plurality of deciders, for measuring, based on the hard decision identification results, the average amplitude of the electronic signals, and for correcting, based on the variation over time in the measured average amplitude, thresholds in the plurality of deciders in the soft decision-identification means, for further examination on the merits. Applicants reserve the right to file one or more divisional applications directed to the non-elected invention.

Furthermore, while the Election Requirement asserts that the application contains claims to patentably distinct inventions, MPEP § 803 states the following:

If the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the Examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to distinct or independent inventions. Although the outstanding Official Action identifies different search classifications, it is

believed that the claims of the present application would have to be searched in a handful of

sub-classes. Furthermore, since electronic searching is commonly performed, a search may

be made of a large number of, or theoretically all, subclasses without substantial additional

effort. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully traverse the Restriction Requirement on the

grounds that a search and examination of the entire application would not place a serious

burden on the Examiner, whereas it would be a serious burden on Applicants to prosecute and

maintain separate applications.

Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the requirement to elect a single group be

withdrawn, and that a full examination on the merits of Claims 1-10 be conducted.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,

MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

mer Number Eckhard H. Kuesters

Attorney of Record

Registration No. 28,870

Customer Number

22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000 Fax: (703) 413 -2220 (OSMMN 06/04)